

SAFE WINTER DRIVING

The cold weather is here, and with it comes weather-related driving hazards. As you enter your vehicle this winter, keep safety a priority. Here are some winter driving tips to keep in mind:

- X Stopping distance on a slick surface can be as much as 12 times that of a dry road.
- X Turn your headlights on during periods of low visibility.
- X Drive with extra caution on slick or snowy surfaces.
- X Wear your safety belts. Secure children under four in a child safety seat.
- X Allow extra time for winter trips. If you are running late, take it easy. Remember, better to arrive late than not at all.
- X Before you drive, completely clear ice and snow from all windows, mirrors, and windshield. Do not go down the road with only a peephole to see through.
- X Clear all snow off the hood and roof of the vehicle so that snow does not blow onto the windshield or rear window obscuring vision.
- X It is a good idea to carry an emergency kit which may include an ice scraper, a brush, jumper cables, a shovel, a tow chain, tire chains, rock salt or kitty litter for traction, a blanket, gloves and a flashlight.

Make sure that your vehicle is mechanically sound. The following checklist will help to ensure a safe trip each day this winter:

- X Cold weather is especially demanding on batteries. Check and replace your battery if needed.
- X Install all-weather-radials or snow tires and check to see that the treads will last throughout the winter.
- X Test your antifreeze. It should be able to handle temperatures down to -30°F. If it cannot, flush the radiator and replace the old antifreeze.
- X Check the integrity of your exhaust system for leaks into the passenger area.
- X Be sure your wiper blades are in good condition.

If you have any questions or would like more information on driving safety, please contact SEPP at X1451.